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9 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting Held in Director's Conference Room,
Administration Building, Central Intelligence Agency, on
8 November 1950.

PRESENT

Mr. James Q. Reber, Central Intelligence Agency, Chairman
Mr. Albert C. Cline, Department of Agriculture
Mr. Clarence Purves, Department of Agriculture
Mr. Sidney Smith, Civil Aeronautics Board
Miss Dorothy Thomas, Civil Aeronautics Board
Mr. Norman Towson, Department of Commerce
Mr. Richard Tyner, Economic Cooperation Administration
Mr. R. Henry Rowntree, Export-Import Bank of Washington
Mr. Marion Woodward, Federal Communications Commission
Mr. Wendell Thorne, Federal Reserve System
Mr. Richard Simonson, Federal Security Agency
Mr. Allen Cleveland Phelps, Federal Trade Commission
Mr. W. E. S. Flory, Department of Interior
Mr. Arnold Zempel, Department of Labor
Mr. Burton B. Adkinson, Library of Congress
Mr. M. W. Knarr, Reconstruction Finance Corporation
Mr. Louis Ballif, Tariff Commission
Mr. G. A. Costanzo, Department of the Treasury
Mr. Remington Kellogg, Smithsonian Institution
Mr. W. C. Mohnkern, General Services Administration

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Hugh D. Farley, Assistant Executive Secretary, National
Security Council

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National Security Resources Board Staff
Central Intelligence Agency
Central Intelligence Agency
Central Intelligence Agency
Central Intelligence Agency

Acting Secretary

Central Intelligence Agency

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Economic Intelligence Requirements (Reference - "Foreign Economic Intelligence Requirements Relating to the National Security," dated 11 October 1950, prepared by CIA in pursuance of NSC directive).

1. Action:

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a. Agreed to submit comments on the requirements paper to [redacted] CIA, by 20 November 1950, as follows:

(1) Comments will be addressed:

[redacted]
Central Intelligence Agency
Room 2051, M Bldg.
2430 E St., N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

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(2) Comments submitted will be informal, that is, they will be those of the agency representative rather than an approved agency position;

(3) Each representative will examine TABS B through E from the point of view of the particular needs of his own agency to determine whether the statements contained therein are valid and sufficiently comprehensive;

(4) Based on this determination each representative will submit suggestions for amplification, addition, or deletion, in the form either of amendments to existing annexes or of additional annexes;

(5) Each representative will return a copy of the requirements paper in which those items (sub-topics) in TABS B through E of primary importance to his agency have been marked with an asterisk, those of secondary importance are marked with two asterisks, and those of no importance are left unmarked; where area considerations enter into the selection of items of primary and secondary interest, qualifying notes may be furnished;

(6) If any representative wishes to make suggestions dealing with the paper proper (less tabs), he may, but such suggestions should be given secondary priority and should be kept distinct from the other comments submitted;

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(7) No comments are required to be made regarding TAB A.

b. CIA assumed the following responsibilities:

(1) In considering economic intelligence requirements, CIA will study and report upon the question of priorities to determine what treatment it is practicable and useful to give this question in connection with the present overall planning project;

(2) CIA will also study, consulting appropriate agencies, the problem of determining whether the requirements paper adequately covers the needs of such special agencies as may be established in time of full-scale war.

2. Discussion:

a. It was brought out that the NSC had directed CIA (1) to determine the needs for economic intelligence support which exist within the Government, in terms of the specific requirements of each agency; and (2), to identify and assess the adequacy of the facilities and arrangements currently employed for meeting these requirements, and to determine means for their improvement. Subsequently, CIA was to prepare for NSC consideration a comprehensive plan for satisfying requirements for economic intelligence support, and for a coordinated interagency effort to this end based on a definite allocation of responsibilities among the agencies concerned. All this work was to be done in collaboration with the agencies concerned. The CIA objective in processing the requirements paper (see reference) was to obtain collaboration in the compilation of overall economic intelligence requirements in terms of which specific agency needs might be expressed. The paper represented, therefore, one phase of the job of determining needs for economic intelligence support. The survey of economic facilities about which inquiries were made during the meeting, was intended, in part, to enable CIA better to identify specific agency needs, which eventually would be tied in with a revised requirements paper through being expressed in the terms of its captions. The survey also had the objective of enabling the identification of the facilities and arrangements currently employed for meeting requirements for economic intelligence support. As we completed the tie-in between the revised requirements paper and the proceeds of the survey, we should be ready to proceed with assessment and planning.

b. It was explained that the requirements paper was only a tool to be used in planning for the improvement of the economic intelligence machinery. There was no thought of sending the paper to the field or of any use of it at all other than to facilitate planning.

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c. All were reminded that representatives should view the requirements paper from the angle of consumer need for the end products of intelligence, as well as from other possible angles such as that of an organization actually producing intelligence within the scope of the paper, or that of a producing organization requiring intelligence produced elsewhere as background for its own work. Agency needs were desired whether or not the particular agency maintained an intelligence organization, and consumer needs for intelligence support should be stated even if, until now, such needs had been unrecognized and unfulfilled.

d. CIA was currently making no assumption which would have the effect of narrowing the meaning of the phrase "relating to the national security," hence a free interpretation on the part of all concerned was in order. At later stages in the project, however, it might be found necessary to adopt a restrictive definition of the phrase.

e. The point was made that the scope of TAB A should not be allowed to confuse anyone as to the intent of the requirements paper, which should be looked at only from the economic point of view. For example, an operating agency which dealt in sociological matters should not be led to expect its requirements for intelligence support to be met through the present project.

f. It was explained that the project was designed to improve the machinery for the production of economic intelligence to meet the current situation. The situation which would prevail in the event of full-scale war would be foreseen and taken into account, but emphasis was being placed on the present.

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